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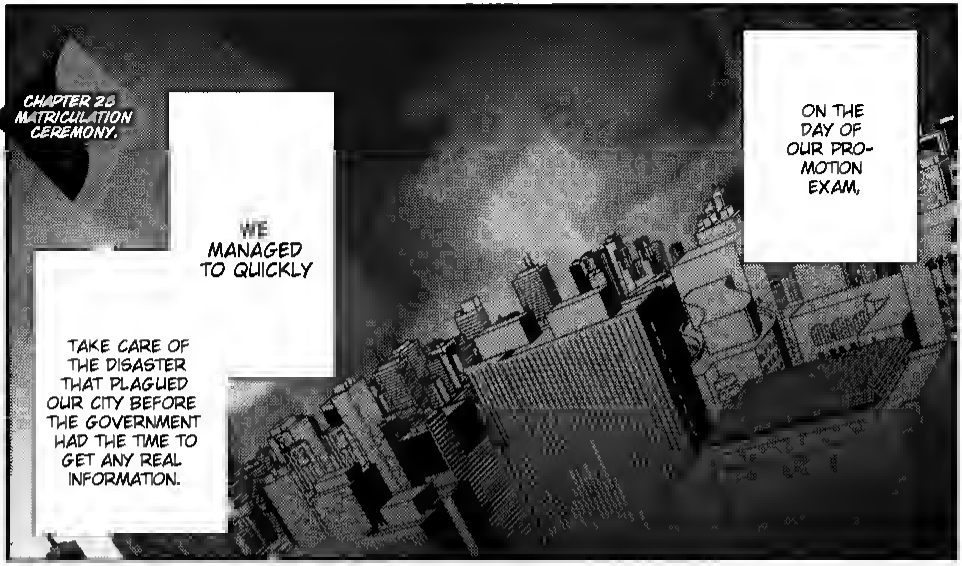
We are recruiting.

ArabianLuffy

WHOEVER WROTE "ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTFIUL"
MUST HAVE GOTTEN THEIR INSPIRATION FROM SEEING THIS.
I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN IF I DIDN'T COME HERE MYSELF,
BUT THERE'S A LOT OF GREEN IN TOKYO STILL.
WELL,
THESE AREN'T NATURAL...
THAT'S FINE.
JUST LIKE THERE ARE CHERRY TREES IN THE MOUN-TAINS,
THERE ARE CHERRY TREES OUT HERE IN THE CITY.
HARUTORA! TOUJI!!


CHAPTER 25
MATRICULATION CEREMONY.
WE MANAGED TO QUICKLY
TAKE CARE OF THE DISASTER THAT PLAGUED OUR CITY BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT HAD THE TIME TO GET ANY REAL INFORMATION.
ON THE DAY OF OUR PROMOTION EXAM,

JUST HOW WIDE THE AREA THAT WAS AFFECTED AND THE LIKES.
FOR DAYS, THAT WAS REALLY THE ONLY THING ON THE NEWS,
IT WOULD LATER BE CALLED THE MARCH REPURIFICATION.

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE THEN.
HMMMMM..

SERIOUSLY.. JUST BECAUSE YOU MANAGED TO PASS YOUR PROMOTION TEST, DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN START SLACKING OFF NOW.
TODAY IS THE MATRICULATION CEREMONY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL TERM.
HOW SILLY WOULD YOU LOOK TO BE LATE ON A DAY LIKE THIS?
BESIDES, EVEN THOUGH YOU MANAGED TO BE PROMOTED,
YOU'RE STILL ON THE VERGE OF BEING LEFT BACK! OR DID YOU FORGET?
YOU NEED TO BE MORE AWARE OF WHERE YOU STAND AS A STUDENT.
FYI,

CHAPTER 28
MATRICULATION CEREMONY.
HURRY UP! WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!

ASHIYA DOUMAN
WAS ONE OF THE GREAT ONMYOUJI'S OF THE HEIAN PERIOD 794-1185AD.
HE WAS THE GREATEST RIVAL OF ABE NO SEIMEI, THE FOUNDER OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO'S.
D-DON'T BE STUPID! THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE!!
ASHIYA DOUMAN IS SOMEONE FROM THE 12TH CENTURY!!
WAS THAT THE REAL THING?
W-WELL, YEAH...IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT RATIONALLY, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE THE REAL DEAL.
LIVING THAT LONG WOULD PUT HIM ON THE SAME LEVEL AS A GOD...
IS THERE STILL NO WORD REGARDING THAT MAN WE SAW FROM THE HIGHER UPS?
NO, NOTHING.
MAYBE THEY REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?
THAT'S A REAL POSSIBILITY.
I ASKED KYOUKO TO ASK AROUND FOR ME,
BUT NEITHER KOGUIRE OR HIRATA WOULD GIVE ANY REAL DETAILS.

WHA!? REALLY?
THINGS GET SO HARD NOW THAT THE FIRST TIME WILL LOOK LIKE A PIECE OF CAKE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN MORE SPECIFIC THINGS IN LESS THE TIME YOU HAD DURING YOUR FIRST TERM.
WHILE HANDS ON LEARNING INCREASES IN YOUR 2ND TERM, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT BOOK WORK DECREASES.
OH YES YOU DID.
I-I-I N-NEVER THOUGHT THAT AT ALL...
SO,
DON'T YOU DARE GO THINKING THAT BE-CAUSE IT'S THE 2ND TERM I'LL BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE THROUGH WITH JUST PRACTICAL SKILLS.
AFTER SEEING THAT LEGENDARY ONMYOUJI...
TRUTH BE TOLD, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT MY SCHOOL GRADES OR MY PRACTICAL SKILLS RIGHT NOW.
ASHIYA DOUMAN.
MY NAME IS
THAT OLD MAN.
YOU MEAN...

HUH?
THAT CHERRY BLOSSOM LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, HARUTORA
-SNICKER- YEAH, IT'S KINDA RELAXING.
WHAT SHOULD I CALL IT... IT'S LIKE A FLOWER FIELD, OR LIKE WE'RE OUT EN-JOYING THE VIEW OF THE FALLING CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
DUMMY-TORA!! YOU SHOULD BE WORKED UP! WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!!!
NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM GETTING ALL WORKED UP LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S WRONG NATSUME?
WAIT A MINUTE!! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE RELAX-ING!!

WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT HE'S A DARK ONMYOU
AND THAT HIS ABILITIES ARE THE REAL DEAL
.....
AHEM, WELL.. YOU KNOW...
THINKING REAL HARD ABOUT IT ISN'T GOING TO HELP US,
SO LET'S JUST FOCUS ON DOING WHAT WE CAN.

TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE,
48 STUDENTS WHO MANAGED TO PASS ALL THE EXAMS TO ENTER OUR ONMYOU SCHOOL...
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DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO JUST SKIP THE ENTIRE THING NOW?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS, WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE ON THE FIRST DAY.
DAMN YOU NATSUME, TOUJI!
HEY...
WAIT!
HARUTORA HAS ALREADY CLEARED UP HIS FAILING GRADES AND HIS REMEDIAL CLASSES.
SOMEONE FROM THE TUSCHI-MIKADO HOUSE CAN'T BE LATE,
ESPECIALLY ON THE DAY OF THE MATRI-CULATION CEREMONY.
DON'T BE SILLY, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN!

HARUTORA! STOP LOOKING AROUND LIKE THAT.
I SHOULD, BUT...
I'M REALLY CURIOUS.
I'LL DEFINITELY LOSE IN TERMS OF PURE KNOWLEDGE.
BUT...
HM?
TO SEE EXACTLY WHICH...
OF THESE NEW STUDENTS IS AT THE TOP OF THEIR CLASS.
THIS YEAR'S CROP OF STUDENTS SEEM VERY RESTLESS
I WONDER IF IT WAS LIKE THIS FOR ME. I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER.
THEY'RE RESTLESS?

HEY, NATSUME...
YOU KNOW, SHE'S RIGHT.
ESPECIALLY THOSE GUYS UP FRONT. I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?
THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN WE DO PRACTICAL SKILLS TESTS AND CLASSES TOGETHER, RIGHT?
ALTHOUGH I SAID ALL THAT ABOUT THE FRESHMEN, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THE SENIORS.
THERE MUST BE GUYS WITH MIND BLOWING SKILLS, RIGHT?
YEAH.
BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CLUBS IN THIS SCHOOL LIKE NORMAL SCHOOLS, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY INTERACTIONS WITH THEM, SO..
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

NO WAY!!
WHY!?
DAMMIT!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!!

AND JUST SO YOU KNOW,
JUNIOR YEAR IS WHEN A LOT OF PEOPLE DROP OUT.

BECAUSE PRACTICAL SKILL CLAS-SES INCREASE.

SORRY...
BUT WHY?

TO BE BLUNT, AN ONMYOUJI'S OVERALL SKILL
DEPENDS A LOT ON WHO THEIR PARENTS ARE.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO MASK YOUR SKILLS WITH WRITTEN TESTS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PRACTICAL SKILLS, THERE IS NO HIDING.
DAMN, THAT WAS EASY!
AFTER HAVING EVERYONE SEE WHAT YOU CAN OR CAN'T DO
CONTINUING TO TRAIN ISN'T AN EASY TASK
I I- CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER...
OUR CURRNET SENIORS ARE THE ONES WHO MADE IT THROUGH ALL THAT WITHOUT WAVERING.
SO THEY ARE WAY ABOVE US JUNIORS WHO ONLY JUST GOT TO THAT LEVEL.

THEY'RE SEMI-PRO'S...
THEY MAY NOT HAVE THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION,
BUT THEY'RE SEMI-PRO'S.
I SHOULD START TAKING THIS MORE SERIOUSLY.
NATSUME WAS RIGHT...
I DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THESE GUYS ARE, BUT...

I'M PRETTY SURE THERE AREN'T THAT MANY PEOPLE WHO TOOK DOWN A NUE.
AMONG OUR SENIORS.
AND MOR SO FOR THE FRESH-MEN
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO BE SCARED.

TO OUR NEW STUDENTS,
AND TO OUR STUDENTS STEPPING ONTO A NEW STAGE,
I'LL CONTINUE TO PRESS ON DOING WHATEVER IT IS THAT I CAN DO.
FINALLY,
AND DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE YOUR ABILITIES.
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
HM?
THERE'S STILL ONE MORE THING THAT I NEED TO ANNOUNCE
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT.
MY FIRST CLASS AS A JUNIOR
IS ABOUT TO START.

THEY HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED THEIR CLASSIFICATION AS A FULL FLEDGED ONMYOUJI.
BUT DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,
AND TO THEIR OWN PERSONAL WISHES,
THIS YEAR, ONE OF OUR NEW STUDENTS..
COMES AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO OUR SCHOOL.
THEY WERE GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL.
NO WAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
IS IT THE REAL THING!?
THE FRESHMEN ARE REALLY GETTING ROWDY
WHAT'S GOING ON?

GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES,
WHY DON'T WE HAVE THEM GIVE THEIR OWN GREETING?
STEP FORWARD.
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I'M SURE EVERYBODY HERE ALREADY KNOWS WHO SHE IS, BUT I'LL INTRO-DUCE HER ANYWAY.
SHE'S THE YOUNGEST FIRST CLASS ONMYOUJI.
ALSO CALLED THE WON-DER CHILD,
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ガヤ
ガヤ...

WHAT?
DAIRENJI SUZUKA.

HEY...
YEAH...
ARE YOU THE RUMORED,
GENIUS CHILD?

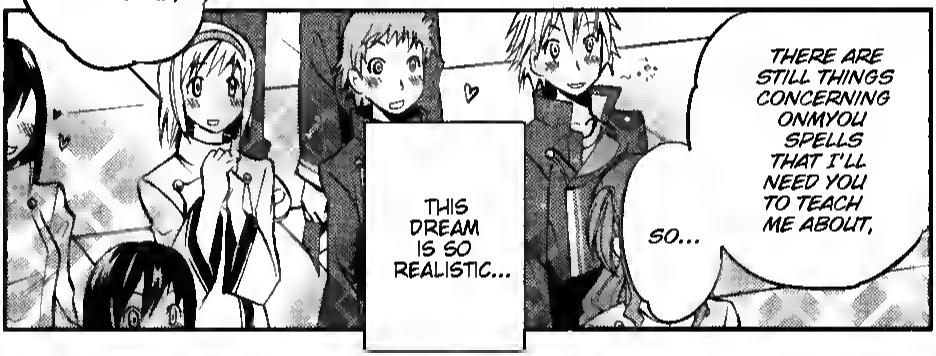
SHUT THE HELL UP!
I DECIDE HOW I LIVE MY LIFE!
BROTHER!
WHY?
SHE'S...

キラ
IT'S NICE TO MEET ALL OF YOU!
I'D LIKE TO THANK MS. KURA-HASHI FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE HERE,
キラッ☆
MY NAME IS DAIRENJI SUZUKA.

HUH?

I WAS REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT TODAY,
BUT I'M SO HAPPY.
IT WAS ALWAYS A DREAM OF MINE TO,
STUDY ONMYOU WITH PEOPLE MY AGE!

AND TODAY, THAT DREAM IS BEING REALIZED.
OH, I GET IT.
THIS IS A DREAM.
IT'S NO WONDER I FEEL STRANGELY SICK AT SEEING THIS.
TO MY CLASSMATES, AND THOSE IN THE GRADES ABOVE ME,


THERE ARE STILL THINGS CONCERNING ONMYOU SPELLS THAT I'LL NEED YOU TO TEACH ME ABOUT,
SO...
THIS DREAM IS SO REALISTIC...

ニコッ♥
I HOPE YOU ALL WILL...
TEACH ME ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

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パチパチ
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WHAT THE...
HELL IS GOING ON?
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パチ
CALCULATED MOVEMENTS.
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ビクッ
OH SHIT!

HUH?

OKAY, I REALLY WASN'T MISTAKEN.
THAT REALLY IS..
THE REAL SUZUKA.
HARU-TORA!
THAT REALLY IS YOU, ISN'T IT!?
UGH!

I'M SO HAPPY!
I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL, I WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU THIS SOON!
PLEASE, STOP IT.
I'M BEGGING YOU!
HARU-TORA?
WHO'S THAT?
TSUCHI-MIKADO, RIGHT?
THE KID FROM THE BRANCH HOUSE?
WHAT KIND OF RELATION-SHIP...
DOES HE HAVE WITH HER?
THIS ISN'T GOOD!
OH?
YOU KNOW HARU-TORA?
YES, I DO!

AFTER ALL, HE'S...
THE FIRST MAN TO KISS ME.

AND THAT'S HOW
THE CURTAINS TO MY TEMPE-STUOUS
JUNIOR YEAR OPENED.
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